THE DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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T H E D I S S E M I N A T O R
1.1 December 1993

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Here is the first issue of our revised Network Info communication sheet, in electronic format, intended to provide information on what's happening at Provincial Library. The format is informal and we welcome your comments!

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Marion Pape recently served as facilitator for a Department of Education strategic planning session. This process is being given a high priority in the department and is scheduled for completion in this fiscal year.

Marion Pape and John Murley, Inspector from Truro, are the two appointees from the department of Education on the N.S. Interdepartmental Committee on Business Information Centres. This is in addition to the Canada-N.S. Business Information and Services Centres.

2007-05052/

Marion has also been chairing meetings for the Business Information Centres and the Libraires Funding Formula Review Committee, with Elizabeth Armstrong as a member. The Provincial Library Council meeting on December 8 was very informative. Many thanks to those regions who prepared written reports. We will share them with the minutes of PLC when completed.

It is hoped that the Regional Libraries Strategic Planning process can produce a final strategic planning document by the end of February, so that we can all get on to the important part -- the implementation of the recommendations that everyone has agreed to.

One of the things that seems to be desired by all is a province-wide marketing strategy, that can be used by all regions to promote their services and raise their profiles. Public library profiles have been raised lately in a number of areas. It will be important to develop an ongoing strategy.

The following is the text of a news release:

Future Direction of Public Libraries Up for Discussion

As part of the ongoing Strategic Planning process for regional libraries in Nova Scotia, a Multi-Stakeholder Assembly was held this past Saturday, December 4 in Halifax at the Provincial Library. Up until now, during this process the library community has been working together to determine the direction of future public library service in this province. The gathering provided an opportunity for the Planning Team to compare their ideas with those of the community.

The question facing delegates at the assembly was, "What should be the direction of public libraries for the next five years?" The event was attended by 68 people from across the province. In attendance were representatives from cultural groups, special interest groups such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canada Council and the Native Council of Nova Scotia, publishers, schools, businesses, federal, provincial and municipal government, and library users. There were also library trustees and library workers participating as observers and facilitators.

A major theme that emerged was the need to identify core services essential to libraries and to ensure their free delivery to the public. The library is seen as a crucial part of the community and there is a need to make it more visible and responsive to community needs. Increased cooperation and formalized partnerships with other community groups and government were cited as ways of obtaining sufficient funding and avoiding duplication of services. The library was recognized as important in the delivery of information needs in the areas of business, community development and education. The challenge of delivering quality services throughout all regions of Nova Scotia should be met in part by the application of new technologies.

Rosemary Kavanagh, the CNIB delegate, commented, "Nova Scotia has done an excellent job of getting its vision for the future organized. The stakeholders meeting was an excellent bringing together of agencies, organizations, users and interest groups." Another delegate observed, "I was impressed to see business people attend and hear their

comments. I believe when people outside an organization express their points of view, it only helps one grow and continue to be stronger".

The discussions from Saturday will be summarized and forwarded to the forty-member Strategic Planning Team, for their meeting in January. At that time, the final Strategic Plan will be drafted, and the final document will be ready by the beginning of March. This plan will set the new direction for the provision of essential library services in this province.

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Please respond to the Don't Tax Reading Coalition material sent out on the APLA listserve. If you need the address to subscribe, please send an email message.

In addition to overseeing the automation project, Elizabeth Armstrong has been busy putting together a four-year budget projection for the Department of Education, and assisting with the writing of the Funding Formula Review Report.

As everyone has heard, the government of Nova Scotia is dedicated to reducing the deficit and has introduced Bill No. 82, "An Act Respecting the Reduction and Control of Operating and Capital Expenditures of the Province."

Provincial Library will be shut down between Christmas and New Year's, to comply with the government unpaid leave schedule.

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AUTOMATION UPDATE

The database conversion has been completed and the tape containing the database arrived Dec. 8. It was amazing to see how small twelve years' worth of records could look on tape! We will begin cataloguing on the multiLIS system very soon.

The CD-CATSS system has been installed and is accessible on our network. Cataloguers have been becoming familiar with this product while we awaited the database.

Work is progressing on the conversion of Halifax City and
Dartmouth's records and meetings are being held with these two libraries to determine how we will handle updating their records, reporting to ISM (Utlas) and authority control.

We are also proceeding with developing an "NcompasS" logo which we hope will be part of the OPAC initial display. More on this as we progress. In the meantime, here is the latest schedule for automation:

AUTOMATION IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Dec 93	Full database conversion
	NSHPL Cataloguers start cataloguing online
	OPAC access by regions
	NSHPL meeting with Jane Beaumont
	Smart barcodes created
Jan 94	New email installed in regions
	Email training in the regions
	Internet and OPAC training for regions
	Load Halifax City's

database
Re-organize NSHPL Tech. Serv
Draft new procedure manuals for NSHPL acquisitions, cataloguing, processing

Mar 94 Stage III training (circ. and collection rotation)

1994 Barcode collection
Print COM catalogue in house
Load Dartmouth's database
Electronic Bulletin Board designed
Electronic Info Sheet started
Stage IV training (serials management, acquisitions)

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TECHNICAL SERVICES

In November, Technical Services catalogued 1446 titles and processed 4,480 volumes. That is an increase of 905 volumes processed over the same time last year. The material spent an average of just ten working days at the Provincial before being shipped to the Regional Libraries.

Technical Services Staff
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In November Marg D'Arcy left Provincial Library to stay home with her new grandchild. Jane Lockwood has taken over as Head of Acquisitions. If you have any questions concerning acquisitions, her email address is

jlockwoo.

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USER SERVICES

In November, the total number of information requests filled was 130 and Carol Morris reports that this fall has been record-breaking in terms of the number of requests answered. We are still working on a two-day turn around time but occasionally things get held up due to a backlog or the availability of sources.

A survey has been initiated by Reference Services to obtain some feedback from the end users. The survey will be conducted for six months and the results will then be compiled and examined. We anticipate using the survey results to improve service.

The latest edition of Statistics for Public Libraries has been prepared so watch your mailboxes for your copy to arrive soon. Next year we're planning a revamped Statistics and Annual report, based on what readers say they would like to see. Any ideas or suggestions should be forwarded to Frank Oram.

The next exchange of Talking Books is tentatively scheduled for mid-January. If your needs have changed since last time please advise Ann Dunsworth as soon as possible.

Andrea John, Marion Pape and Donna Bourne-Tyson are working on the local Freenet initiative. If anyone out there is interested in starting a similar community network the Metro steering committee would be pleased to share support and advice. The Sydney-based group would also be a good

source of information.

ILL UPDATE

We have made a decision on a new e-mail package called PCEudora. It will replace WNQVT for e-mail and ILL messaging, however, WNQVT will still be used for telnet and ftp, at least for the time being. Eudora has some advantages over WNQVT in that it supports folders, allows attachments and has an easy to use "nickname" feature.

Once we have made decisions on ILL scripts, Eudora (with the scripts) will be loaded on the PC's in the regions and training will be provided.

The number of ILL requests processed for November was 700. It is speculated that the temporary shutdown of Halifax County Regional Library may have been a factor in this relatively low number. December is traditionally a relatively slow month as well since many libraries shutdown ILL services over the holidays.

User Services Staff

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Arlene Watts has returned to User Services as part of the Reference team. Donna Bourne-Tyson has taken over the reins of NSLA as this year's President.

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . .

If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the

people involved. Comments about THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani or Donna Bourne-Tyson.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!